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Longview by

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WAITING FOR ROBERT

The Kennedy visit can only be described as a phenomenon. The phenomenon resides not solely in him nor solely in the vast expectant crowds. It is the conjunction of the two that is phenomenal. These long waits, this excitement, those outstretched hands, what are they but the signs of a hunger and a thirst, greater than we imagined? And who better able to satisfy them than our visitor?

It was exhilarating to hear again those truths that have been driven into hiding by the enemy, by the blaring trumpets and the shouting hooligans, by the promises of security and the imputations of treachery, by the vested interests and the need for import licences, by the bans and the threats and the cruel laws. It was exhilarating to hear again that totalitarianism cannot be fought by totalitarianism, that independence of thought is a strength not a crime, that security and self-preservation

are not the supreme goals of life, that to work for change is not a species of treachery.

And what was the excitement? It was to feel part of the world again. Reginald Reynolds, the Quaker observer of Africa, once brilliantly and wittily likened white South Africa to a room full of men and women smoking and drinking with doors and windows closed, and when a stranger came in and exclaimed, "My, what a fug in here!" they cried out at him, "How do you know? You've only just come in!". Kennedy was like a fresh wind from the wider world, reassuring those who had said there was a fug that they were right after all.

It is said of course that his only reason for coming to South Africa was to benefit himself politically. This may well have been one of his reasons. I am sure that if Dr Verwoerd could

benefit himself politically by touring abroad, he would do so, if he could find a country to go to. But even in my short acquaintance with the Senator, I was convinced that he really believed in the things he was telling us. I could not help thinking that he would be welcome in almost every country of the world, whereas Dr Verwoerd would have to confine himself to Portugal and its so-called provinces, Rhodesia, and perhaps Spain. Algeria is off the list, and even Mississippi is slipping. Nor could I help thinking that if Dr Verwoerd visited Soweto, where would be that multitude of outstretched hands, waving in greeting, trying to touch him maybe? And the simple reason is that Kennedy has something in him that Dr Verwoerd has not, some warmth for all people, not just his own.

It would be a mistake to imagine that the Kennedy visit has made our world anew. What he in effect said to us was this, "I know all about your situation, about the bans and the threats and the imputations of treachery, and I've come to tell that you've been fighting for the right things, and to encourage you for tomorrow". He can't

fight our battles for us, and it is we who have to live our particular South African tomorrow. One feature of that tomorrow will be a sustained campaign to shut all the doors and windows again. And we must face the possibility that during the campaign some people are going to get hurt.

This magazine, and the Liberal Party also, express their thanks to NUSAS for their imaginative invitation, and to Senator Kennedy for accepting it, and for giving us so invigorating and encouraging an experience.

(continued from p.6)

for the A.N.C. and allowing their homes to be used for A.N.C. meetings.

On the first charge they were each gaoled for three years and on the second for one year.

The men are Messrs Gerald Peter Nguna, Cecil Magqabi, Alfred Moosa, Baba Bolo, and July Tungu.

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The sentences of two men who were convicted on three counts under the Suppression of Communism Act were reduced on appeal by the Supreme Court, Grahamstown.

Mr Nelson Pindani and Mr Samuel Majoni were found guilty by the Regional Magistrate in Humansdorp of being members of the banned African National Congress, of contributing to, and soliciting funds for, the A.N.C., and of allowing their homes to be used for A.N.C. meetings.

Mr Pindani was sentenced to four years' imprisonment, Mr Majoni to four and a half years.

Now Mr Pindani will serve three years' and Mr Majoni two and a half years' imprisonment.

The sentence of a third man, Mr Meglory Magwayi, was left untouched by the Supreme Court. He had been convicted on two counts of the Suppression of Communism Act and was sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

The men's appeals against their convictions were dismissed.

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The Supreme Court, Grahamstown, refused an application by Dr Masilamoney Pather for leave to appeal to the Appellate Division.

Dr Pather wished to appeal against further convictions under the Suppression of Communism Act.

It was held by the Regional Magistrate that Dr Pather had allowed his home to be used by the banned African National Congress for a meeting and that he contributed funds to the A.N.C. and also allowed his home to be used for the collection of A.N.C. funds.

At the time of his trial Dr Pather had already served a sentence for holding an illegal meeting in his house in April, 1961.

The defence counsel said it was a sort of "refined cruelty" for a man to be charged and convicted of a crime and later released and then charged again.

The meeting for which Dr Pather was convicted was held a month before the meeting referred to in his second trial.

He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment, of which nine months were suspended.

He appealed against the

three convictions to the Supreme Court, Grahamstown.

His appeal was dismissed and the convictions were confirmed.

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About 160 people at present serving jail sentences are to be tried on further political charges. The trials, which have started, will run continuously, and will probably be held in Humansdorp, Cape Province.

One of the first prisoners to be tried again was Mr Dixon Fuyani. In January 1964 he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for belonging to the banned A.N.C. In February this year he was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for soliciting or contributing funds for the A.N.C., furthering the aims of the A.N.C., and making his house available for the activities of the A.N.C.

Recently, Mr Benson Ndimba was sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment. He was due to be released in July after serving thirty months' imprisonment. In 1964 he was found guilty of charges under the Suppression of Communism Act. This year he was convicted of

contributing funds to the A.N.C., and allowing his house to be used for meetings of the A.N.C. in June or July 1962.

The third person to be retried was Mr Nicolas Mangesana. In the Regional Court he was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for contributing funds to the A.N.C. and allowing his house to be used for meetings. Mr Mangesana is at present serving a thirty-month sentence on Robben Island. He will have completed it by July this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr Jackson Nkosiyané and Mr Nicodemus Nogcantsi, two members of the opposition Democratic Party in the Transkei who have been appearing in the Supreme Court, Grahamstown, on charges of plotting to kill Chief Kaiser Matanzima, Chief Minister of the Transkei, were each sentenced to seven years' imprisonment.

An application for leave to appeal was granted but bail was refused.

They were originally charged on three counts, one with an alternative. They were found guilty on counts two and three and acquitted on count one and its alter-